



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Sixth meeting**
Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its sixth meeting

Decision MC-6/8: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining: review of the implementation of article 7

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting that pollution from the use of mercury in gold mining, including artisanal and small-scale gold mining, remains the largest global source of anthropogenic mercury emissions,

Recognizing the efforts made by the relevant parties to develop, submit and implement their national action plans pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Recalling paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, which requires all parties that have determined that artisanal and small-scale gold mining in their territory is more than insignificant, notified the secretariat of that determination and developed and submitted their national action plans to provide a review of the progress made in meeting their obligations under article 7 and include the review in their reports to be submitted pursuant to article 21,

Recalling also its decision MC-4/4, in which it called on parties to engage Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities and other relevant stakeholders, in the development and implementation of their national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining,

Recognizing that the prevention of the use and diversion of mercury linked to gold mining, including artisanal and small-scale gold mining, would be enhanced through environmentally sustainable management measures and strengthened accountability throughout the full life cycle of gold supply chains, including buyer and intermediary due diligence, traceability and verification of origin,

Welcoming international efforts to foster coordinated action on artisanal and small-scale gold mining with the aim of reducing the socioenvironmental risks associated with artisanal and small-scale gold mining and minimizing its negative impacts, fostering the development of mercury-free gold extraction processes conducted responsibly and enhancing transparency and traceability throughout the gold value chain,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring a just transition for communities, particularly those in vulnerable situations, when transitioning from using mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining,

1. *Calls on* parties whose national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining are due pursuant to paragraph 3 (b) of article 7 to submit their final plans to the secretariat as soon as possible;

2. *Adopts* the amended sections on the review of the implementation of article 7¹ for inclusion in the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to incorporate the adopted amendments into the guidance document and to cooperate with the Global Mercury Partnership in disseminating the amended guidance, including, as appropriate, at the regional and subregional levels;
4. *Calls on* all parties that have submitted their national action plans to provide a review of the progress made in meeting their obligations under article 7 and to include the review in their reports to be submitted pursuant to article 21, and encourages parties to use the reporting template in annex 7 to the amended guidance in those reports;
5. *Invites* parties that have notified the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 7 to make use of the provisional guide on the effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities² in the development and implementation of their national action plans, as well as their reviews of progress pursuant to paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, and requests the secretariat to seek feedback on the use of the provisional guide;
6. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership and on the basis of the information from the submitted national action plans and reviews of progress in the implementation of article 7, to take stock of and report to the Conference of the Parties on:
 - (a) Measures taken to implement the national action plans;
 - (b) Identified successful strategies and activities, achievements in implementation, and challenges and barriers encountered in reducing and eliminating the use, emissions and releases of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, including information on formalizing or regulating artisanal and small-scale gold mining, as well as managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
7. *Encourages* parties to adopt or strengthen the environmentally sustainable management of gold supply chains and measures to identify buyers and intermediaries and to make them more responsible in the full life cycle of those supply chains, with a view to discouraging mercury use and illicit gold trade;
8. *Also encourages* parties to consider developing or improving open data practices throughout the gold supply chain, making relevant information publicly available, including verification of origin, with a view to ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the gold industry;
9. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in coordination with relevant international initiatives, to compile comparative experiences on supply-chain transparency and certification and how such practices could impact the use of mercury in gold mining, including artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and could enhance the accountability of buyers and intermediaries, and to present its findings to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;
10. *Recalls* decision MC-5/7, in which it called on all parties that had notified the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 7 and on the Global Environment Facility to continue to advance implementation of national action plans through projects and programmes;
11. *Also recalls* decision MC-5/7, in which it encouraged parties to work with Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, with regard to artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
12. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

¹ As presented in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/7/Add.1.

² UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/11.